

THE “*CONDER*” TOKEN

COLLECTOR’S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR’S CLUB

Volume XVIII Number 2 Fall 2013 Consecutive Issue #65

This Issue is dedicated to the memory of
Richard G. (Dick) Doty 1942 – 2013
Our first President and one of our Journal Editors



Hertfordshire D&H 4

Canal Ephemera

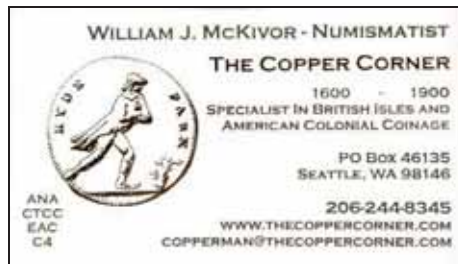
Wilkinson Article (continued)

BILL McKIVOR—CTCC #3.

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x

Bill McKivor and Mrs Tottington.

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Please check you mailing label before you throw it out!

It contains extra information – such as when your dues are paid through. This information will appear as: Jon Lusk Mem # 137 Exp 3Q2014

This tells me my dues are paid up until the third quarter of this year. Don't miss an issue by having your dues lapse.

New Members

586	Mr. Alan Hanneman	Sanctuary Point	NSW (Australia)
587	Mr. Norman H. Wolfe	Mount Vernon	WA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2013 has been an interesting one, some good, some bad, so it rather mirrors life.

The good----

We have a web site. Nothing on it to yell about yet, we have only borrowed a few things from my site to get started, but we could use some writers, and ideas to bring it along. So far, we have put up some sample pages from older Journals, to test the water, and we have a member who has the equipment to do the pages digitally, and can over time get them done. We will then have to decide how to use them, and how to limit them to members only. I understand it is possible to do, and so we shall. You can find the site at **CTCC.info** Please have a look and weigh in with suggestions, comments, and articles, or perhaps to volunteer to help us with it further if you have expertise. Contact me with any comments, please.

Jon Lusk took things in hand and gave a nice talk as well as running the meeting in Chicago, fourteen people attended, but that the path to the meeting was right by an offer of free food. Thus, after the meeting, the number going out to dinner was fairly small, seems most tried to save a few dollars and have free dinner---thus having more to spend on tokens. Well, who can fault that!!

The bad----

At the top of this list is the passing of our own first president, and one of the most knowledgeable token men in the country, Dr. Richard Doty. An article about Dick appears elsewhere in this issue, for this spot it is enough to say that we have lost a great friend, who will simply not be replaceable.

I personally have had a bit of bad news, I apparently have an illness that will be with me for the rest of my life, but it is not fatal, just a bit cumbersome to live with. But, we do what we have to do, and I am not going to let it interfere with things if I can help it. It did interfere with my being in Chicago, and for that I am sorry. Will be off to England in September, however.

And the Usual----

Quite a few have signed up for the extra cost color issues, and we think that offering it both ways is a good thing for all. If you wish to get a color issue, check the prices for yearly dues in this Journal.

Eric is slowly getting a handle on the membership, and dues due dates. If you have any questions, please ask. We are now billing by the year, not by the issue of the Journal, which was very confusing to all of us. No one, even I, knew just where we stood and when we owed the money. You should get a notice but once a year. You may pay for multiple years if you wish.

It will be time again in 2014 to choose new officers, if there are any who would like to run for the board, Vice President, or President be sure to put your oar in the water. It is your club, and you can have as much say in the running of the club as you are willing to give.

We always need articles for the Journal. I know that many of you feel you have nothing to contribute, but we all need to---the club cannot have a journal written each time by the few. Each of us can write something on how we came to Conders, our experience with them, what we like and why. Along with a photo, it is a good way to meet everyone. Articles to Jon Lusk, please.

I would also like the membership to weigh in on the possibility of a member registry. It could contain all your contact information, or if you did not wish that, only part of it, or just your name, but it would be nice if the club members could talk to each other. It is how ideas form, and you might even be able to trade a token or two. Let us know if you think it a good idea. Right now, there is only one, and that is in the hands of the membership chairman. Your officers do not have it, which is only right, but if we do come up with a membership listing, we can do so only with the permission of each member that wants to be on it.

I wish you all a great fall and winter season, and lots of great tokens.



Notice

Jack Mullen has volunteered to run a Conder meeting at the Baltimore show sometime during the period of Nov. 7-10. He'll tell Gary Groll (token dealer that has a table there) the time, date, and room so that if it doesn't get put in the program you'll be able to find out the particulars. Please go. There are also plans to hold a get-together at the January 2014 FUN show – details will be in the next issue.

Dr. Richard G. (Dick) Doty, 1942-2013
First President of the Conder Token Collector's Club
Editor of the Conder Journal
A Remembrance

By Bill McKivor

Dr. Richard G. Doty was just plain "Dick" to many of us in the Conder Token Collector's Club. The club was founded in 1996, around the time that Dick was finishing up his book about Boulton, Watt, and the Soho Mint. It was published in 1998, much to the delight of the token community. Dick wrote 9 books, and innumerable articles and pamphlets, many of them on the subject of 18th Century British tokens. While writing the book, he was studying the tokens as well, and amassed a fairly large collection of them. It was not a collection of high end rarities, but a reference collection, with some very nice pieces in it, along with some bought just to study. He became the first President of the CTCC, and was a major contributor to the CTCC Journal for many years. In later years, he served as editor of the Journal, and at the last as a consultant, his health failing. Of course, we see him as one of the people who made the club what it is today, but he was much more.

Here is a view of a very short version of his life and times-----

Dick was born in Portland, Oregon January 11, 1942. He passed away on the evening of June 2nd, 2013. His family was poor but proud---Dick worked in a textile mill with his father in the evenings when he was in high school, and probably went to school during the day---making school grades a struggle. He was aided by a mentor, a teacher, O. P Marsubian--who became a second father and a lifelong friend. Marsubian pulled a few strings, and got Dick a small grant to go to Portland State University, where he completed his BA degree.

From there, Dick went to the University of Southern California, and graduated with a doctorate in Latin American Studies in 1968.

Beginning his professional career as a teacher, there were stops at Central College, Pella, Iowa---then on to York College, City University of New York in 1970-71, and at the University of Guam, 1971-73. At each, he served as an Assistant Professor, teaching mostly Latin American , United States, and World history.

When Dick was eight, he was given his first world coins, which left an impression that lasted until his death. Given the opportunity to use his expertise, he joined the American Numismatic Society staff in New York where he served as curator of modern coinage from 1974 to 1986, when he left to join the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. At the time of his passing, he was the senior curator of the National Money Collection at the Smithsonian.

Dick received many awards in his lifetime, including a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Madrid, Spain, a Mexican Government Fellowship for study in Mexico City, the Del Amo Fellowship for research in Spain, the Millennial Award Medal of the Royal Numismatic Society, the Huntington Award from the American Numismatic Society, and, awarded after his passing, a lifetime achievement award from the American Numismatic Association.

He was the founding President of the International Committee for Money and Banking Museums, (ICOMON), and served as the first President of the Conder Token Collector's Club, International. Those were the basic facts of Dr. Doty's life and path---important, but there was much more to honor in the man.

I met Dick for the first time in 2000, at the ANA summer seminar, where he taught a course in 18th Century provincial tokens of the UK. He never used notes, and with his photographic memory was capable of coming up with a jaw-dropper about every ten minutes, or so it seemed. We developed a friendship, and over the years it just got stronger. During those years I found that he was nearly without ego. I must admit to a bit of awe, he had a very powerful and interesting job within the numismatic field, at the top of his profession as senior curator of the National Money Collection at the Smithsonian Institution----and I was, well, a just retired paper peddler from Seattle. I remained a bit in awe, but after a while understood how he felt about a number of things. First on the list was that titles meant nothing.

He never used, in person, his education or his position as a point of who he was, he was just plain Dick Doty. He saw me, and everyone else, as his equal. No one, not even the lowest person on the totem pole, was ever treated with anything but respect by Dick Doty----but if someone wielded power -- and did it with an uneven or unfair hand, he was the first to step up and call it as he saw it. Dick used to put funny, pointed notes berating someone that had acted better than anyone else on his office door for all to read. Yes, he could be irascible, but he always kept humor in what he said to keep things civil. Humor flowed through everything he did, and everything he said.

He never tried to get into upper management---an office, cup of coffee in his hand, reports, and meetings were not him. His work was more important, thus he always turned down any suggestion of "moving up".

Our friend Dr. Richard G. Doty was one huge presence in the Numismatic field, and a most unusual curator and historian---he fully believed that human relationships could be found in the items he studied and organized, and he shunned the usual, or traditional, if you will, history that was told in rather dry language by many of his predecessors, and by many museum curators today as well. At his core, he was a story teller---the history came first, followed by the coin or token.

His book, "The Soho Mint and the industrialization of Money" was issued in 1998. He spent five years off and on working in Birmingham, reading the Boulton papers, to try to get a handle on the man and his mint as well as on the tokens and coins he struck.

I sold his collection of tokens in 2006, and he wrote an introduction to the sale that shows the humor he brought to what he did, and his innate curiosity, which led him to Birmingham and many other places in the world. I think that his introduction serves to tell all just who he was on a numismatic level. I thus include it here---

I bought my first two Condors in Portland, Oregon around 1963. I remember that one of them was a Deptford piece. I've forgotten the identity of the other. But they were both in mint state and cost, I think, about a dollar and a half apiece. And I

looked at the two, then reflected how far three dollars would go towards two American coppers in the same condition from the same decade, did the math, and arrived at a Conclusion.

But I didn't pursue it for a number of years. I finally became a serious token collector because of two factors. One was being Welsh. And the other was running into Matthew Boulton.

Bloodwise, I am a mongrel - French, Sephardic, Danish, Dutch, Swedish, Scottish, Irish, possibly Italian and definitely English - and Welsh. I tend to favor the Welsh portion of my inheritance, in part because we're so obscure as a people that no one has managed to create meaningful prejudice against us. When I discovered that Wales (which, until the coming of the Royal Mint some three decades ago, I would have categorized as one of the most numismatically inert spots on earth) had actually struck and circulated its own money in the 1780s and 1790s, had actually shown the way to the rest of the British Isles, I thought it might be worth a closer look.

....It was.

Then Matthew Boulton came into the mix. I've always been interested in machinery, coining technology, and the like. When I ran across a British Midlander who'd had the vision to marry a steam engine to a coining press, and who'd performed the rite two hundred years ago - I thought he might be worth a closer look too.

....He was.

I found that many of the features he and his Soho Mint would someday introduce on coins had already made their debut - on his tokens. The tokens got me more deeply into the life and work of Matthew Boulton. And Matthew Boulton returned the favor, leading me deeper and deeper into Conder tokens in general, and those of Soho and the other Birmingham coiners in particular. I lived in Brum, off and on, for about a year. And I finally turned what I'd found there into a book.

The collecting was based, in great part, on the research I was doing and the writing I hoped to do. And I've moved on, from the token as primary source to other objects of the same period. I'm working with magazines and newspapers of the 1780s and 1790s, getting an idea of what the attractive, varying "provincial coins" meant to the men and women who encountered them in trade, who blessed those responsible for their manufacture and circulation, who began setting aside the nicest specimens to swap, save, or give away as gifts. With any kind of luck, I'll be at this new task for years...

Happy landings to all!

R:D

Dick was a brilliant researcher and writer, could think things out and then act on them quickly. We made an agreement on selling his token collection with a handshake over a plate or two of spaghetti, and neither of us were sorry.

It was during that meal, in the spring of 2005, that he came up with another of his jaw-dropping pronouncements. We were discussing Droz, who Boulton hired to come up with a self-ejecting collar for the steam presses to use. One was needed, as the steam presses were capable of much more speed than could be handled if someone had to reach in and pull out each new coin or token. Boulton wanted to mint well, but quickly, so he could coin for governments in quantity. Droz's self ejecting collar was not to come, he did not make it work while employed by Boulton. But, I knew it had been invented, obviously, and was curious as to when it happened. Dick simply said that the self-ejecting collar had been made to work on Tuesday, 12 October, in 1790, some time before 4 PM!! My jaw was once again on the floor, as it often was with some of Dick's pronouncements.

It seems that James Lawson, Boulton's right hand man, had penned a note to Boulton in the morning of that day, stating that the collar was not working, and he had "hurt his fingers some". Boulton was in London trying once more to get a coining contract. At 4 PM, Lawson penned another note to be sent to Boulton that they had finally succeeded, and the collar was working, and the striking of patterns was going along well. Dick had found Lawson's note in the Boulton papers, so thus could work out the dates and time that modern coinage speeds were attained. Such were the sorts of things that those close to him were used to, information that no one else had. And, he was always willing to share it with others.

Dick Doty's wife Cindi, his fourth wife and his soul mate, called Dick her "Silly old Bear"---and he was one, so it is a good name. Fantastic numismatist, wonderful friend and companion, he was one of a kind.

While he was researching his book on Soho, he penned a poem that Cindy Doty found just recently in the pages of a book----which she kindly shares with us----

The Author's Respects to Mr:Boulton (Doty note, 1986)

With undue length, I've taken up my pen
To celebrate a useful group of men
With deep-set feelings for the planet's poor,
Whose coinage duped them. Now and evermore
The coins they used would all be struck the same,
While counterfeiters trembl'd at the name
Of MATTHEW BOULTON: he whose vision pure
Would make our money beautiful and sure.
And having here at SOHO'S site unfurled
New money's banner, now around the world
He'd send the apparatus, plans, and men
To forge a link to BIRMINGHAM again.
At Soho BRONZE took precedent to Gold
And changed our money. Now my tale is told.

It is indeed, my good friend. Happy landings, Dick. We will all miss you.



With his wife Cindi



The Thames & Severn Canal

By Dave Jones

In issue #6 p27 of the CTCC newsletter (as it was then) there was a comment from the author, Harry E Salyards that he could find no trace of the Thames & Severn Canal on modern maps and a plea for someone to tell him if any remnants remain. That question was answered in #33 after I took Bill McKivor to see parts of the canal including the tunnel entrance. In this article I want to look at perhaps some surprising links the canal has with other tokens and it uses some of my personal canal ephemera, to illustrate.

Opened throughout in November 1789, the complete canal archive, minutes books, correspondence, receipts and records resides in the Gloucestershire County Records Office. This enormous archive was the subject of a Bristol University thesis by a gentleman named Humphrey Household. He then wrote a much condensed book as part of a canal series first published by David & Charles in 1969. It is from this book that I have drawn a lot of the material for this article.

The idea of linking two of Britain's greatest rivers had been mooted since the early 17th century, some of them fanciful but eventually, on the face of it, a realistic scheme was brought forward, in 1783. The process was amazingly quick, the promoters agreeing to go forward on 17th January 1783, by 3rd February £103,600 had been promised by subscribers, the bill was introduced to Parliament on 20th February and passed through gaining royal assent on 17th April! The actual canal itself was not to link Thames with Severn but to link the River Thames with the Stroudwater Navigation the proprietors of which had obtained their own act of Parliament in 1776. The Stroudwater had a junction with the River Severn at Framilode and was developed to ship out the products of the woollen trade, whose mills dotted the Stroud Valley. The Stroudwater initially were interested in being part of the link but only a few investors in the Stroudwater invested in the Thames and Severn. The Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation is still in existence and indeed I am a shareholder (Fig. 1).

As with most canals the building costs were underestimated and the Thames & Severn had to return to Parliament to obtain an Act to raise further funds in 1795 (Fig. 2). The bill was presented to Parliament by Sir George Jackson, "sole proprietor of the Stort Navigation" and issuer of another canal token (Herts DH4).

The Thames and Severn Canal Company became a large employer with its own boats for carrying with weekly services to London. At its peak they employed wharf staff, maintenance men, lock keepers, clerks, agents and other office staff and boat crews (in 1798 that amounted to a total of 235). The eastern part of the canal runs through largely agricultural land in Gloucestershire, and coinage was required to replace the largely rural barter economy. Household states that the Thames and Severn halfpennies were struck in 1795 in order to help pay the workforce and as he had access to the company information I can only assume he was right. They were of good quality and appear to have been widely recognised. I am aware of a resident who a few years ago dug one up in a back garden that backed on to the adjoining Wilts & Berks Canal. There were four varieties, Gloucs DH 58-61. (Fig. 3) All four had a

similar reverse (Fig. 5), that of the Sapperton tunnel entrance (Fig. 6). There are a few Type 61 in silver, there was one in the 2013 Davisson Auction 32 (Fig. 4). The die broke before many of Type 58 (Fig. 7) were struck, probably less than 10. To the best of my knowledge, there are three of known whereabouts, I have one, Bill McKivor has one and there is one other in a collection in America (if there are any more known I would be interested to hear of them). The edge inscription for all 4 types is “payable at Brimscombe Port”. Brimscombe Port was the interchange point between Severn Trows and Thames Barges as neither could fit in the others locks and it was chosen to house the company headquarters. In 1818 an ex-apprentice of the company, Richard Miller, set up a local bank, the Brimscombe Port Bank, and like other provincial banks, it issued its own bank notes (Fig. 8) and in 1822, also like a lot of other provincial banks, it failed. WS&I Wakeford (Hants W2, D39) for example went bankrupt in 1826.

The Stroudwater eventually had a junction with the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal (Gloucester DH 62, 63). There are other tokens which have a tenuous connection with the Thames and Severn Canal and one in particular that developed a direct connection. The canal had the longest tunnel ever dug at that time, the contract was awarded to one Charles Jones (I don't think he was a relative—but I feel obliged to sympathise), he wasn't exactly reliable but was treated particularly badly by the company, (they knocked him down on his original estimate and when he reached a difficult bit that needed brick arching they refused to pay him extra for the extra work), they parted company when he had completed about one-third. He moved almost immediately to excavating the Greywell Tunnel on the Basingstoke Canal (Hampshire DH1) but again was sacked before it was completed.

The Thames & Severn canal was plagued throughout its life by water shortages, mainly because the topmost level of the canal was dug through porous limestone. To supplement the water supply, the company initially built a six sailed wind pump to lift water from a well. Needing to increase the supply they contacted James Watt who visited the site and signed an agreement on 1st January 1791 for a single acting beam engine to be sited at Thames Head (Fig. 9). The company had to pay Boulton & Watt £120 a year for the patent rights. Boulton & Watt did not at that time manufacture the engines themselves, they supplied 39 drawings, some of the smaller parts and the services of an experienced erector. Most of the larger parts including the boiler were obtained from John Wilkinson (Warwickshire DH numerous) and some other parts from Reynolds of Coalbrookdale (Shropshire DH 7-17). The experienced erector had featured on a token that had been produced some two years earlier, he was none other than Isaac Perrins, the well-known prize fighter (Warks DH 13) (Fig. 10). Boulton and Watt had reckoned an installation period of eight months, in fact the beam was put in place in October 1791 and Perrins and Toward the engine man were given a guinea (£1.05) for beer to celebrate. Weak beer was 1/- a gallon at the time, so a guinea would have bought 21 gallons or 168 pints, that must have been some celebration!.

The engine first ran on September 22 1792 and the well was finished in January 1793. It was finally brought into service on 14 June 1794 having cost £4015.

The company's shares (Fig. 11) peaked at £134 in January 1795 but declined thereafter. By 1805 mortgages, bonds and arrears of interest amounted to nearly £200,000. The company

then issued what are now known as preference (red) shares (Fig. 12) with a promised dividend of 1.5%. Dividends were then paid nearly every year until 1864 for the preference shares and nearly every year until 1853 on the old black shares. After that, railway competition sent the canal into a slow economic decline. Several attempts were made to keep it open including Gloucester County Council spending large sums of money to no avail.

Currently huge efforts are being made to resurrect the canal and progress can be seen on the canal website, www.cotswoldcanals.com

References

The Thames & Severn Canal - Humphrey Household David & Charles 1969

Google Earth

51 41'15.10" N 1 42'19.67" W Round House Lechlade

51 46'54.35" N 2 21'16.25" W Saul Junction Stroudwater/ Gloucester and Sharpness Canal Junction

CTCC Journal #6 p26

CTCC journal #33 p13

Illustrations

Figure 4 Type 61 in Silver is by kind permission of Allan Davisson

Figure 7 Type 58 was photographed on my behalf by Charles Lyne

All other photographs, illustrations and documents are my own.

Further Reading

Humphrey Household's book is currently in print by Amberley Publishing ISBN-13: 978-1848680357

Flower of Gloster by Temple Thurston is a travelogue from the early 20th century and describes a journey through the canals of England including the Thames & Severn, modern copies are available second hand.

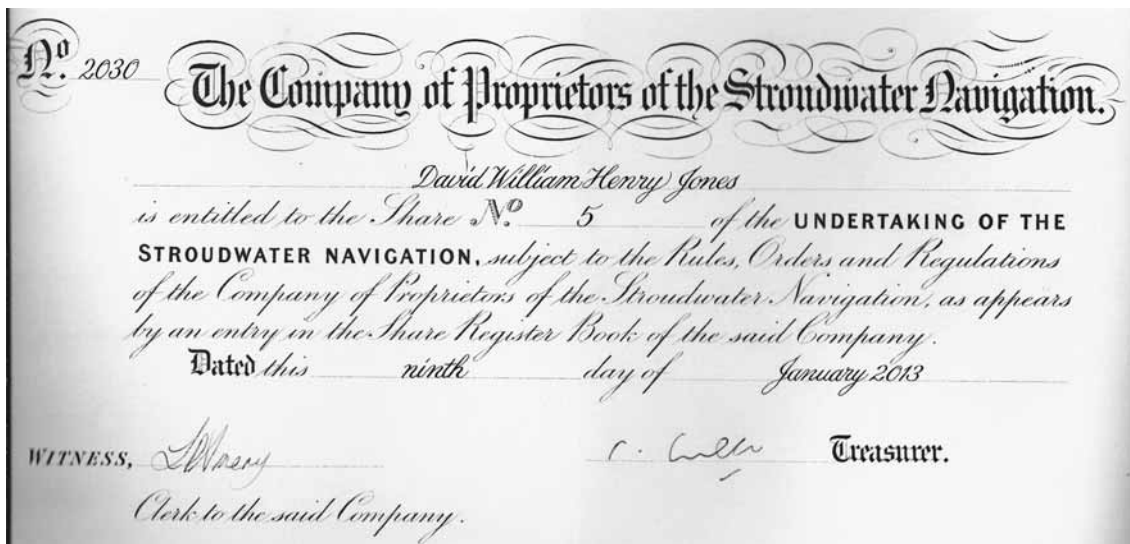


Fig. 1

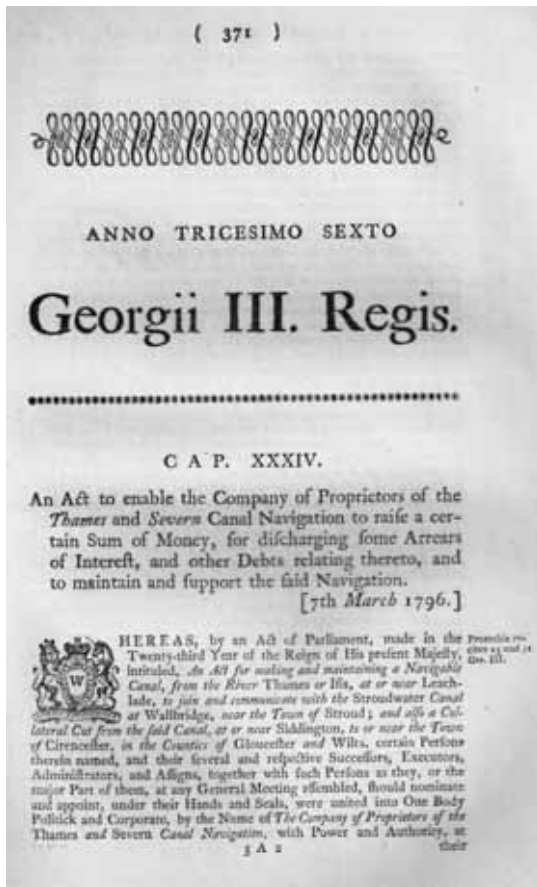


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



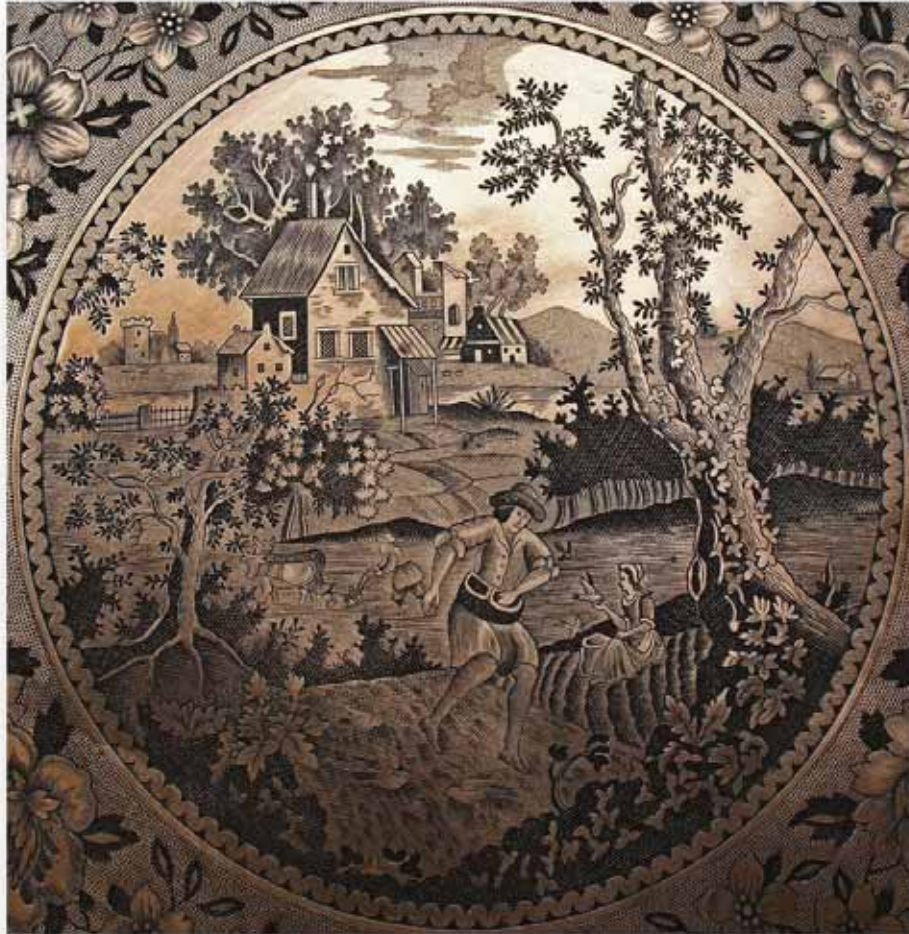
Fig. 11



Fig. 12

CONNECTIONS (Willeys Part Two)

ITEMS RELATED TO THE INDUSTRIAL TRADE TOKENS OF JOHN WILKINSON...



DETAIL, TRANSFERWARE, 8" COPPER PLATE ENGRAVING.

I have included the above image as a reminder of the age we are dealing with. One must put aside a modern view of the world and remember that we must try to understand and imagine the world as it was over two hundred years ago. With this in mind, I am very confident in saying that John Wilkinson never issued any *leather* tokens. The people who used his **cardboard** tokens did not recognize the material they were printed on, mistook it for and called it leather.



Here we see the silver coins of 1/s, 6d and 3d (Not to Scale) that Wilkinson could not obtain in sufficient quantity to pay his workforce and the only known copy of his substitute cardboard tokens. We know that John Wilkinson issued this form of token notes on cards in 1773, 1774 and again in 1797 and 1798.¹ However, finding this set of printed tokens still leaves many unanswered questions. These tokens were from his Willey iron works near Broseley in Shropshire. Were tokens issued for each of his four major iron works? Also, how were they cut? Did they circulate intact or were they cut prior to issue? Were they cut round like the coins they were replacing? The engraving strongly suggests to me that they were cut or punched round prior to issue. Note that the shilling note had to be signed and numbered. The six and three pence probably only received the initials of the pay-master. This set of cardboard tokens came by way of John Wilkinson, **Junior** who brought them to America. (See “Provenance” article in CTCC Journal #60.)



ASSIGNATS, FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY SCRIPT

Wilkinson had many business dealings with France, probably the largest of which was supplying pipe to the Paris Water Works project. He seems to have been paid for some of this work with Assignats which he began to circulate in England. The British Government bans their use in 1793 and he was forced to recall them.²



WARWICKSHIRE D&H #33 (Penny size token)

Dr. Joseph Priestley, noted chemist and theologian, married John Wilkinson's sister Mary. John Wilkinson supported them after rioters burned their home in Birmingham. Priestley eventually fled to America to continue his work.



THE WORLD'S FIRST IRON BRIDGE - SHROPSHIRE D&H #9

Wilkinson served as consultant, investor and lobbyist for the Iron Bridge project. Abraham Darby, III was a major investor in the project and his iron works were closest to the construction so he was selected to supply the iron for the bridge. Ever the shrewd businessman, John Wilkinson sold his shares to Abraham Darby after construction was begun.



Matthew Boulton and James Watt were partners and had a long involved business relationship with John Wilkinson. Boulton minted tokens for Wilkinson while Wilkinson made the iron cylinders for the James Watt steam engines. This penny size 1871 medal engraved by J. Moore commemorates the partnership.



CORNWALL D&H #2 - Dumarest /Boulton (Mintage, 76,000)

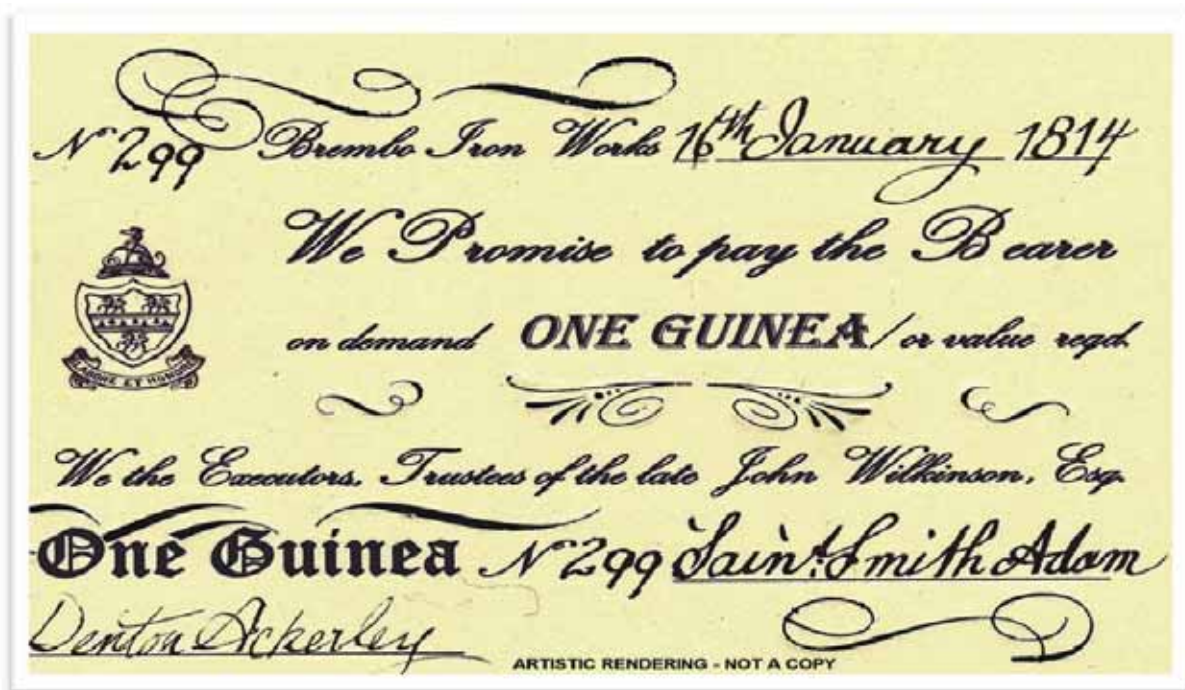
John Wilkinson, Thomas Williams and Matthew Boulton were among the founders of the Cornish Copper Company. The company was founded to provide a stable price for copper and insure the supply of copper to the buyers. Matthew Boulton minted the Cornish Druids for John Vivian who managed the company.



ANGLESEY D&H #328 –Milton/ Westwood

The Cornish Druid was of course the cousin of the Anglesey Druids first issued by Thomas Williams in 1787. Williams was a friend and partner of John Wilkinson in many ventures. John Wilkinson encouraged Williams to issue the Druid tokens!

THE GUINEA NOTES OF JOHN WILKINSON



John Wilkinson had banking interests or partnerships in banks in Birmingham, Bilston, Bradley, Brymbo, Shrewsbury³ and London. Issuing promissory notes was the custom of banks at the time and John Wilkinson did the same. When Alfred Nobel Palmer wrote his paper “**John Wilkinson and the Old Bersham Iron Works**” in 1898 he pictured a copy of a One Guinea note and he states that it bore the crest of John Wilkinson. He also reproduced the crest at the end of the article. The note was issued in 1814 by the **Trustees** of the late John Wilkinson. We now know that the crest was, in fact, the crest and seal of John Wilkinson, **JUNIOR**, not that of the Iron Master.⁴ In corresponding with Mr. Peter O'Donoghue of The College of Arms in London, from his email reply of September 2011...

(Reprinted with permission.)

At present no entry has been found to suggest that John Wilkinson senior had a right to Arms. The consequence of the Royal Licence of 1808 was to elide over this detail, by exemplifying differenced Arms to his children as though he had had the undifferenced version himself. In fact I believe that he had no inherited right to Arms., The design employed in 1808, however, is very similar to much earlier designs of Arms that belonged to families with this surname. These earlier families appear in the records held here of the heralds' visitations of the English and Welsh counties of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is possible, then, that John Wilkinson adopted one of these earlier coats of Arms during his social ascent, but then when the question of the Royal Licence arose, it was found that he had no provable right to them.

So, we now believe that John Wilkinson used a crest and seal but had never paid for the right to arms. (Sounds like John!) We also believe that the legitimate crest and seal of his **son** was differenced from a crest and seal **used** by John Wilkinson.



John Wilkinson Jr.

Rendering by A. N. Palmer.



WilkinsonSr.

From John Wilkinson's Fob Seal.

THE JOHN WILKINSON FOB and IMPRESSIONS



Please let me explain the reasons that I believe that this fob belonged to John Wilkinson, Iron Master. The time period for the popular use of this type of spinner triple fob coincides exactly with the age of John Wilkinson. It is obvious from the initials and family crest that the fob

belonged to someone named J. Wilkinson. The color choice of materials making up the fob, white gold and smoky quartz, may indicate an owner who preferred black and white, (the two colors of cast iron), as opposed to the much more popular yellow gold and citrine quartz. Keep in mind that white gold was rarely used at this time in history. The expense of having a triple fob carved by a master intaglio carver, as this one obviously was, would have been extremely prohibitive and only a very wealthy person could afford such a thing. John Wilkinson was rich. The Wilkinson Crest carved into the fob shows three unicorns **passant**. Many Wilkinson family crests show three unicorns rampant! The crest of John Wilkinson Junior shows three unicorns **passant**, the same as the fob. So, if a Guinea Note is ever found with the actual crest and seal of John Wilkinson Senior, it may closely match my rendering shown on the previous page.

The Wilkinson fob was probably carved by George Wyon. Please compare the initials design to those on the Penny token, Warwickshire, D&H #21 designed by Wyon and minted by Kempson for Thomas Welch of Birmingham. We know that George Wyon (the younger) worked as a carnelian carver for Matthew Boulton. *(It was the acquisition of this fob which fostered my interest in collecting John Wilkinson's tokens.)*



Warwickshire, D&H #21 designed by George Wyon and minted by Kempson (1795)



Initials “TW” from the token.



Initials “JW” from the fob.

The looping design of the letter “W” and the placement of the ornamentation convince me that these were both designed by Wyon.

Interesting Connections

In 1790 Matthew Boulton minted tokens for John Wilkinson and these were the first mass produced by steam power, fully round, collar struck tokens made for general circulation, the forerunner of all modern coinage. John Wilkinson, Iron Master made the cylinders for Watt’s steam engines which powered Boulton’s coin presses. George Wyon was employed by Matthew Boulton as an engraver. George Wyon probably engraved the triple intaglio fob for John Wilkinson. In 1770, James Cook “discovered” (sailed to) Australia on the Bark HMS Endeavor. He had with him a botanist named Joseph Banks. It was Sir Joseph Banks who later reported to the committee on coinage the advantages of Matthew Boulton’s minting process which eventually led to a Boulton contract to mint British Coins. When the H.M.S. Endeavor returned to England it was sold into private hands. When it was finally sunk, with a dozen other ships, to blockade a harbor in America during the American Revolution, it was John Wilkinson who applied for restitution for **ten** of the ships, identifying him as the final owner of the Endeavor.



EVASION TOKENS (Counterfeits)



Note the spelling of WilkEnson on these tokens. This was not an error on the part of the die sinkers! The misspelling was intentional. British law required that to be guilty of counterfeiting, one must be trying to make an exact copy. By making an altered or inexact copy the counterfeiters hoped to **evade** prosecution. This speaks volumes about the universally accepted nature of the Wilkinson tokens. They were treated exactly like coin of the realm, even by the counterfeiters.



The Wilklson spelling was far more common than the WilkEnson and all three reverses exist with evasions spelled Wilkison.



THE MULES



These three Conder tokens look perfectly normal until you turn them over and see the Wilkinson reverses.



And here Wilkinson obverses acquire foreign reverses. There are probably many reasons for the existence of mules but primarily they exist because of discarded mix and match dies being used to produce counterfeits. Most are under weight and weakly struck in an attempt make them look old and worn.

Eight different reverses are known to exist with Wilkinson obverses. These are pictured here...



And finally we have a really weird bird, (By Williams of London?)...



I suppose you could call it an evasion mule, or perhaps just a counterfeit!

Last but not least is the class of tokens that one would simply call counterfeits. Many perhaps were made from genuine Wilkinson dies and others were made from dies which were obviously engraved by amateurs. Counterfeiting coins was a well-established practice. Genuine coins could be made into counterfeits of the same size but at a reduced weight, gaining value for the maker if the counterfeits were accepted. Underweight counterfeits became so common that merchants began to weigh the tokens. By 1795 John Wilkinson could stop having tokens minted because tokens were so plentiful. The following tokens are all counterfeits identified by their edge markings. One edge even says PAYABLE EVERYWHERE.



CONCLUSION

When John Wilkinson and the other industrialists realized that the spurious underweight counterfeit tokens circulated as freely as their own they began to reduce the metallic content of their own issues. The final Wilkinson tokens weigh about a third less than the early issues. What I find very interesting about the Wilkinson tokens is the fact that they circulated freely throughout the vast Colonial British Empire. Many factors contributed to their popularity, not the least of which was the fact that Wilkinson looked somewhat like King George in his portrait on his tokens and the fact that most people using the tokens couldn't read. Thomas Williams is credited with having issued the first industrial trade tokens with his Druid pennies in early 1787 but if one accounts Wilkinson's cardboard tokens, he was issuing industrial trade tokens **14 years** prior. John Wilkinson helped usher in the Industrial age and though the memory of his many endeavours may fade with time, his tokens will remain. Long live the king!

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AND FINALLY, a button in the form of a Wilkinson token with a gutta-percha reverse. Thanks Bill McKivor! (*Bill encouraged me to write these articles as well!*)



Cheers! *Edward C. Moore*, AA,BS,Med, (CTCC Librarian.)

On the Lighter Side

By Gary Sriro

Near the end of May, I came across an eBay listing which definitely raised my eyebrows on this rather mediocre VF token:

"CONDOR COIN 1794 - THE UNION OF APPLEDORE KENT

Starting bid: £3,499.00 [0 bids]

You are bidding for a Condor token marked 'The Union of Appledore Kent' on the front and dated 1794 and with the inscription 'Peace, Innocence and Plenty' on the reverse side. Rare coin. Nostalgic coin of times past."

Thinking this might be a good time to check the humor of some of our membership I sent out the following email to a number of people along with a link to the listing.

"How many of these bargain priced tokens would you like to order. If I can get together a large enough number, maybe we can get even a better "deal".

Remember, they walk among us, AND....THEY BREED!"

Now, here are the received responses .

- And to think I passed up one of these at a mere fraction of that price.
- bet he sells it
- I wonder if they would consider an installment payment plan.....
- Wow. Idiot of the first water. At the current exchange, it is only \$5460.00. Tilting at windmills this fellow.
- I have already left three sniper bids on it !!!!
- I could do several at half the price and with free shipping !
- I get the impression he meant 34.99 pounds.... Still an enthusiastic price for the token.
- Impressive. One doesn't see too many at this price...
- Postage is only 1 pound. Seems quite fair!
- Wow that is a bargain ! :) Deluded morons are aplenty on here. If that sells for that i'll eat one of my socks haha.
- Pretty awesome - wonder if he has enough to go around? --Thanks--Now I can really retire!!!

Thought you might like to know, folks, in spite of our hobby/business being rather serious and complex, our membership is healthy and doing well, thanks to their good humor.

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